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**AUT**

# A decade on: Working together to revise the WFOT Position Statement on Human Rights

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# Outline

1. Celebrating the WFOT Position Statement (2006)
2. Linking Occupational Justice with Human Rights and Occupational Rights
3. Revising the WFOT Position Statement
  - Draft Proposal
  - Audience Feedback: Voting sheets
  - Process and Timing

# Celebrating the WFOT Position Statement (2006)



## World Federation of Occupational Therapists Position Statement on Human Rights

### **Introduction**

The WFOT fully endorses the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The purpose of this Position Paper is to state the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) position on human rights in relation to human occupation and participation.



# Celebrating the WFOT Position Statement (2006)

- **A transparent, global declaration & commitment:**
  - We – occupational therapists around the world – have social and political concerns that call us to address the capabilities, opportunities and freedom of choice, as well as the limits, for individuals and populations who want to live healthy, meaningful lives.
  - As a global community, we are obligated to address abuses of human and occupational rights, and to take action against occupational injustices.

# Linking Human Rights, Occupational Injustice, & Occupational Rights ... an 18 Year Journey

1948 Onward	<i><b>Human Rights:</b> Restricted participation in society undermines inalienable human rights (United Nations, 1948), a declaration that has sparked many global commitments to human rights</i>
2000	<i><b>A Public Declaration on Occupational Injustice:</b> “Recognising and providing for the occupational needs of individuals and communities as part of a fair and empowering society” (Wilcock &amp; Townsend, 2000)</i>
2006	<i><b>WFOT Position Statement on Human Rights (2006)</b> – An authorized, profession-based declaration on human rights</i>
2018 Onward	<i><b>Linking Human Rights, Occupational Justice, &amp; Occupational Rights:</b> e.g. “abuses of occupational rights are abuses of human rights” (Hammel, 2015, p.5); <b>Time for WFOT revision ...</b></i>



# Revising the 2006 WFOT Position Statement

- Position Statements should be reviewed every 6 years or so....
- The ***WFOT International Advisory Group: Human Rights*** is charged with taking the lead
- Calling for input ...
  - Your feedback via monkeysurvey
  - Discussion will feed into an article in the WFOT Bulletin
  - Informal feedback will be posted on Facebook, Twitter



# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

## Driving the Revision

- The purpose of revising the Position Statement is to clearly affirm occupational therapists' global commitment to bring a critical, occupational perspective to the work of advancing human rights and occupational justice.



# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

## Introduction

- The WFOT fully endorses the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).
- The purpose of this Position Paper is to state the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) position on human rights, which is that abuses of occupational rights are abuses of human rights that undermine occupational justice.





# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

## Human and Occupational Rights

- Occupational therapists around the world are obligated to promote occupational rights as the actualization of human rights.
- This obligation requires addressing occupational injustices, initially named as occupational deprivation, occupational imbalance, occupational marginalisation, and occupational alienation (*Wilcock & Townsend, 2000*). An early addition was occupational apartheid (*Kronenberg & Pollard, 2005*).



# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

## **Human and Occupational Rights**

- Occupational rights are secured by identifying and addressing the capabilities, opportunities and freedom of choice for individuals, communities and populations to participate in society.



# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

## **Occupational Justice and Injustice**

- Occupational justice requires universal rights to occupation regardless of different forms for different people – according to the cultural, social, and geographical context.
- Occupational justice is the fulfilment of the right for all people to engage in occupations they define as meaningful, that contribute positively to their own well-being and the well-being of their communities.
- Occupational injustice is an abuse of occupational and human rights.



# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

**Occupational Justice** – requires occupational rights for all to:

- **Participate in a range of occupations** that support health and well-being so that individuals, communities and populations can flourish and realize their potential, consistent with the Ottawa Charter ( World Health Organization, 1986).



# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

**Occupational Justice** – requires occupational rights for all to:

- **Choose occupations** without pressure, force, coercion, or threats but with acknowledgement that with choice comes responsibility for what we do (Sen, 2009).



# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

**Occupational Justice** – requires occupational rights for all to:

- **Freely engage** in necessary and chosen occupations **without risk to safety, human dignity or equity.**



# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

## Strategic Action

- Actions to promote occupational and human rights must over-ride occupational injustices that are aggravated by persistent poverty, disease, social discrimination, displacement, natural and man-made disasters, armed conflict, historic disadvantage, and physical and mental ill health.




# Revising the WFOT Position Statement: DRAFTING IDEAS

## Strategic Action

- Occupational therapists are obligated to enact our ‘client-centred’ aspiration by collaborating with those experiencing abuses and with diverse partners to eradicate abuses that undermine occupational justice.





Please give us your feedback  
via survey monkey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WFOTHumanRights18>

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